

TEACCH Autism Program
Basics of Structured TEACCHing Training

Problem Solving in the Community – JEFF

Jeff is a 17 year-old young man with an autism spectrum disorder. Jeff has good academic skills. He loves to read and especially enjoys reading the labels and ingredients on food items as well as food and cooking magazines; he also likes to cook. With respect to math, Jeff can add and subtract 3-digit numbers; he recognizes money and the values of all bills and coins but has difficulty calculating how much change he should get back from a purchase. Jeff uses a full-day written schedule that includes times; he checks off each item as it is finished.

Socially, Jeff is very interested in people but has difficulty knowing how to interact appropriately in the community. He frequently approaches strangers to ask them their birthday, their weight, and, if applicable, the year they were married. He has a great deal of difficulty ending these “conversations” once they have started.

You are taking Jeff to the grocery store where he is to buy the ingredients to make a cake for one of his housemate’s birthdays.

Please discuss the systems that you think Jeff will need in order to accomplish this task successfully. Then, design a visual system that will help him to understand the where he is going, to select the necessary items, to pay, and to return home from the store. Also, please design an intervention for teaching him which people he can talk to and what is appropriate to say.